

Jamaica Police Chief Promises Never To Surrender To Criminals

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica, CMC -- Police Commissioner Lucius Thomas says the response of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) to criminal activities is "a sure and certain indication that the Police Force will never surrender, will never retreat, and will never submit *Will Not Be Dismayed* to tyranny".

"To date, 40 of our colleagues have died in service, with 18 paying the ultimate price in defense of law and order. Such atrocities directed at the Force are meant to weaken our resolve and fortitude, and cower us into submission, but this will never deter us," he added.

Speaking at the Force's annual commemorative and memorial service over the weekend, Thomas said that, notwithstanding the levels of crime and violence in the country, the policemen and women were seeking to ensure that "good conquers evil", and peace and harmony are restored to all communities.

The service was held under the theme: "Law Enforcement, A Divine Vocation".

"This occasion affords us an opportunity to renew our pledge, strengthen our resolve and commitment to the service of our country and fellowmen. We must acknowledge,

Police Commissioner Lucius Thomas

however, that the many strategic and tactical plans which are being implemented by the force, the Police High Command, the Divisional Officers, will not, by themselves, effect the requisite change,” the Commissioner said.

"Let us acknowledge that we cannot watch and serve this country successfully, without the protection of God. With his strength, we can enforce the laws of the country, impartially, without fear or favour, treating each person as humanely as possible," he added.

The Commissioner said that, as the JCF paid tribute to fallen members who have served valiantly and faithfully, "let us take comfort that their lives were not lost in vain".

National Security Minister Dr. Peter Phillip, in a message read by his junior Minister Derrick Kellier, said that the Ministry considered service to be an important aspect of the lives of the brave men and women who served the country with “a sense of purpose, an attitude of dedication and a display of professionalism, bolstered by impeccable integrity”. **PRIDE**

Jamaica's PM Speaks of Importance For Additional Financial and Technical Resources to Aid Negotiations

By Peter Richards
Caribbean Correspondent

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC—Jamaica's Prime Minister P.J. Patterson says it is important that there be additional financial and technical resources to aid the region's negotiations.

Patterson, who has lead responsibility for external affairs within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) made the comment during a report to CARICOM leaders on the status of the external negotiations in which the region is involved.

The region is simultaneously involved in negotiations for a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Europe, the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Further, regional states are exploring the possibility of a bilateral trade arrangement with the MERCUSOR group of countries, and have identified the month of July as a critical period for resolving a number of issues relating to the Doha Development Agenda of the WTO.

Patterson said the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM), which coordinates the region's external negotiations, has shown by a combination of

recruitment and training that the necessary technical expertise exists in the Caribbean and its Diaspora.

"The challenge is how we are mobilising adequate financial resources," he said.

Patterson added that the formulation and implementation of coherent external trade negotiating positions require that all member states attend the relevant technical and ministerial meetings.

"Attendance at the ministerial level must be improved if we are to arrive at genuine regional positions. Otherwise the negotiations will lack the necessary political direction and ownership," he told his colleagues at their annual CARICOM summit.

Patterson said that while the region leaders understood the position of the Least Developed Countries in attending the meetings "we will have to direct attention identifying resources to assist while asking everybody to redouble their efforts."

The Jamaican Prime Minister said he noted that the CRNM is increasing its technical assistance to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat "developing an additional senior technician with particular expertise in the field of agriculture." **PRIDE**